



**Head of Service for Older Persons
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**
Health Service Executive
Caha House, Business & Technology Park
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Cúram Sláinte Pobail - Corcaigh & Ciarraí
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Teach Caha, Párc Ghnó & Teicneolaíochta
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20th December 2022

Deputy Brendan Griffin, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 61307/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding the opening of more beds at West Kerry Community Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Griffin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare continues to endeavour to recruit staff to West Kerry Community Hospital in order to increase the number of community beds for the region and maximise the services available. The goal is to ensure that the maximum number of people that can be safely accommodated in our community hospitals are being accommodated. Every effort is being made to increase both staff numbers and bed capacity in WKCH and to overcome the challenges that recruitment to community hospitals in rural locations can present.

As outlined in a previous response, staffing levels have increased in WKCH across almost every grade since the start of 2022, following numerous local recruitment campaigns that have been undertaken in the past year. The opening of additional beds at WKCH is a service priority and to this end, we will continue to seek qualified and interested candidates within this geographical area to facilitate same.

An additional nurse has been recruited to WKCH in recent weeks and another nurse is potentially scheduled to commence employment in the New Year but no start date has been identified yet. Recruitment efforts at local and regional level will continue to increase the staff complement at WKCH so that an optimum service can be provided to the local community.

I trust this clarifies the position. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older People

